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Office of the
Healthcare
Advocate
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
In support of SB 186
February 27, 2014**

Good afternoon, Representative Megna, Senator Crisco, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 186, An Act Concerning Dispensation and Insurance Coverage of a Prescribed Drug During Review of an Adverse Determination or Final Adverse Determination. CGA 38a-591e(c)(1)(D)(3) acknowledges the importance of providing for uninterrupted concurrent medical treatment during the utilization review process. SB 186 merely recognizes that delay or interruptions of a consumer's medication regimen due to an insurer's denial can also have dire effects, and seeks to prevent potentially catastrophic resulting outcomes by requiring insurers to provide the ordered medications for the duration of the appeal process. This important protection allows consumers to receive the treatment that their medical provider has determined to be necessary while they complete the appeals process.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. We look forward to continuing to collaborate and advocate for the consumers of Connecticut in this important matter. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at